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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,984	06/28/2006	Marcel Massin	1013-044	5623
22429	7590	02/04/2009		
LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER	
			LIN, KUANG Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1793	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
02/04/2009	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/542,984	Applicant(s) MASSIN, MARCEL
	Examiner Kuang Y. Lin	Art Unit 1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/21/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

1. Applicant is requested to provide in the specification headings, such as "background of the invention", "summary of the invention", "brief description of the drawings", "detailed description of the drawings" to render the specification in a better format.
2. The drawings is objected to in that the claimed "air propulsion system" (claims 23-30) is not shown. Correction is required. Rule 1.83.
3. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is not clear what "intersection" is referred to.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,758,713 to Fallet and further in view of EP 165,892 and US 6,544,469 to Suzuki et al.

Fallet shows a decoring device comprising a rigid frame 12, two clamping devices 24 having tightening plate 34 for clamping two castings to be decored, unbalancing motors 26, a pneumatic hammer 40. Thus, Fallet substantially shows the invention as claimed except that the decoring device is provided with a plurality of closable access openings (col.2, line 46) and that he does not show to

provide a robot for the operation. However, EP '892 shows that a decoring device is provided with a single closable door 22 for loading and unloading the casting to be decored. Thus, it would have been obvious to provide the decoring device of Fallet with a single or double door depending on the number of casting to be decored each time. Further, Suzuki et al. show that it is conventional to provide a robot for loading material into a plurality of working stations (see figures 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 32, 39) such that to facilitate the casting operation. It would have been obvious to provide a robot and a plurality of decoring device in the process of Fallet in view of Suzuki et al. to facilitate the decoring operation. With respect to claim 14, EP '892 appears to provide an opening in the bottom panel 15 (see figure 1). With respect to claim 17, it is conventional to provide springs in addition to elastic rubbers in a decoring device to facilitate the decoring process (see, for example, US 6,644,382 to Aoyama et al. wherein springs 25 is provided). With respect to claims 23-30, it is conventional to provide an air propulsion system to expedite a material separating process (see, for example, page 2, lines 3-18 of US 2,002,974 to Bennett et al.).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuang Y. Lin whose telephone number is 571-272-1179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00-6:30.,

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica L. Ward can be reached on 571-272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kuang Y. Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

1-30-09